

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 782  
Appropriations

(Delegate Branch, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

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Governor's Office of Community Initiatives - Reorganization of Various State  
Entities

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This bill codifies in statute the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, which was established by executive order in 2007. It also transfers to the office the Commission on Indian Affairs from the Department of Human Resources and the Commission on African American History and Culture from the Maryland Department of Planning. It codifies placement of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism within the office as well. It also transfers oversight of the two commissions from the Secretaries of Human Resources and Planning (respectively) to the Governor.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** No net effect on State expenditures or revenues resulting from a one-time transfer of six full-time positions from the Maryland Department of Planning to the Governor's Office and one full-time position from the Department of Human Resources to the Governor's Office.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The nine-member Commission on Indian Affairs within the Department of Human Resources was created in 1976 to represent and serve the State's Native American community and to promote understanding of Native American history and culture. Among its duties and responsibilities, the commission • studies the status and needs of Native American communities in the State; • locates and preserves buildings and sites relating to Native American history and culture; • and establishes a process for recognition of indigenous communities as Maryland Indian communities. Members are appointed to three-year terms by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and a majority of members must be members of Indian communities of the State, with at least three members coming from indigenous communities. All members must demonstrate knowledge of Indian history and culture and be sensitive to the problems of Indian communities. They do not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement of their expenses.

The nine-member Commission on African American History and Culture dates to 1969, but has been known by its current name since 1992. It is within the Division of Historical and Cultural Programs of the Maryland Department of Planning. Among its duties and responsibilities, it • initiates projects that further the understanding of African American history and culture; • coordinates the State's observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday; • operates the Banneker-Douglas museum in Annapolis; and • preserves significant buildings and sites related to African American history. Commission members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. They do not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for their expenses.

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism was established within the Governor's Office in 1986. Its purpose is to • encourage volunteering throughout the State by individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations; • to provide information services to volunteer programs and government units throughout the State; • administer the Maryland Service Corps and the Executive Fellows Program; and • otherwise promote volunteerism in the State.

**Background:** The Governor first established the Office of Community Initiatives in 2007 by executive order. The order included the Office on Service and Volunteerism within the new office, among others, and also gave the new office "an oversight role" with respect to the two commissions transferred by this bill and the Maryland Commission on Women. A subsequent executive order rescinded the office's oversight role with respect to the three commissions, instead assigning the new office to be the Governor's liaison to the commissions.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The Department of Human Resources advises that only one position is assigned to the Commission on Indian Affairs (executive director). The Maryland Department of Planning advises that the Commission on African American History and Culture employs six people, all located at the Banneker-Douglas Museum. Although Legislative Services assumes that the individuals in these positions will not be relocated, their positions will be transferred to the Governor's Office.

As a result, fiscal 2009 general fund expenditures for the Maryland Department of Planning decrease by \$440,652, and by \$84,759 for the Department of Human Resources, with corresponding general fund expenditure increases for the Governor's Office. Personnel costs are expected to grow by 4.4% annually, subject to 3% reductions for employee turnover.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Planning, Department of Human Resources, Governor's Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2008  
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